

P.R.O. Region 6

4415(3) RINGWOOD-FORDINGBRIDGE

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1954.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

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1954

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health.

D. J. N. McNAB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. R.S.I.

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1954

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my eighth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District.

Natural and Social Conditions

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge is, in area, the third largest county district in Hampshire. It lies along the south west border of the County and is separated from the sea by the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Christchurch. The River Avon traverses it from north to south running through a fertile valley, to the west of which lie barren heaths extending into Dorset and to the east further heath lands of the New Forest. In the northern part are chalk downs, contiguous with those of Wiltshire.

The District contains sixteen parishes with a considerable variation in the density of population, the smallest parish, Woodgreen, being by far the most densely populated. The District as a whole with an area of 90,139 acres had a population density at the 1951 census of only 0.27 persons per acre. Only three other Districts in the County were more sparsely populated. In recent years there has been a steady increase in the population, halted this year for the first time for nine years.

Farming is the major industry but light industry is established in the towns and a renowned aircraft is manufactured at Hurn. Because of its favourable position close to the south coast and its celebrated river, the District is popular with retired people.

RAINFALL FOR 1954.

	<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>
January	.. 2.00	July	.. 3.16
February	.. 3.11	August	.. 3.77
March	.. 4.57	September	.. 2.97
April	.. 0.14	October	.. 3.30
May	.. 2.03	November	.. 6.09
June	.. 3.72	December	.. 3.36
TOTAL : 38.22 ins.			

GENERAL STATISTICS :

AREA : 90,139 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1954: 24,610

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES : 7,630 (approx.).

RATEABLE VALUE : at 1.10.54 : £161,172.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE : 1954-55 : £652. 11. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954: (as supplied by the Registrar-General) :

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
LIVE BIRTHS							
Total	..	..	..	..	331	154	177
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	301	144	157
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	30	10	20
STILL BIRTHS							
Total	..	..	..	..	10	5	5
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	5	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
DEATHS							
Total	..	..	..	..	317	144	173
INFANT MORTALITY							
(Deaths under 1 year of age)							
Total	..	..	..	..	5	1	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	1	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
(Deaths under 4 weeks of age)							
Total	..	..	..	..	5	1	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	1	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
MATERNAL MORTALITY							
Deaths from maternal causes	..				—	—	—

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS :

	<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
BIRTH RATE : (Comparability Factor 1.13)		
per 1,000 estimated population ..	13.4	15.2
after application of comparability factor	15.2	—
STILL-BIRTH RATE :		
per 1,000 estimated population	0.41	0.36

DEATH RATE:(Comparability Factor 0.77)		
per 1,000 estimated population	12.9	11.3
after application of comparability factor	9.9	—
INFANT MORTALITY RATE :		
(under one year of age)		
All causes per 1,000 live births	15.1	25.5
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE :		
(under 4 weeks of age)		
All causes per 1,000 live births	15.1	17.7
ILLEGITIMACY RATE :		
Per 1,000 live births	90.	46.
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE :		
per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	0.69

SPECIAL CAUSES :

Death Rate per 1,000 population :

Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0.04	0.01
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	0.00
Influenza	..	..	..	0.08	0.18
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	0.01
Pneumonia	..	..	..	0.49	1.92
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	0.24	0.18
Cancer (lung and bronchus)	..	..	..	0.37	0.37
(all causes)	..	..	..	1.91	2.03

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS :
(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Popu- lation	Ringwood & Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	60	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1944	19,520	25	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1948	22,270	28	20.3	10.8	34	17.9	10.8
1949	22,590	16	18.6	12.6	32	16.7	11.7
1950	23,220	22	17.6	12.8	30	15.8	11.6
1951	23,970	12	17.3	12.5	29	15.5	12.5
1952	24,060	28	16.2	12.4	27	15.3	11.3
1953	24,720	34	16.6	14.5	27	15.5	11.4
1954	24,610	15	13.4	12.9	25	15.2	11.3

CAUSES OF DEATH :

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	4	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	6	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	14	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	1	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	20	40
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	20	16
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	4	7
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	26	34
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	5	11
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	6	6
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	2	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	—	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	7	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined disease	..	..	..	11	13
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..	5	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	4	4
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	3	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
TOTAL (all causes)					144	173

CENSUS 1951 :

Details of the 1951 census, in so far as it concerns this District, have been published in the County Report for Hampshire. The Report makes interesting reading and to those who are concerned with social trends I commend it for study in its entirety.

Between 1931 and 1951 the population of the area now included in the Rural District rose by 5,695 to 23,912, an increase of 31.3%, of which only 6.6% was by excess of births over deaths: the remainder, 24.7% can be accounted for only by migration into the District. In this same period there was an increase of 44.2% in the number of structurally separate dwellings to a total of 7,526. In 1931 there were 5.4 rooms per dwelling, in 1951 this figure was 4.7. There are now 5.17% of occupied dwellings with one or two rooms only, a high figure when compared with the general County average of 3.64%, in Rural Districts 4.28%. In 1931 there were 3.54 persons per household, in 1951 the figure had fallen to 3.12. The percentage of households sharing a dwelling was only 2.6% which compares favourably with the average of 4.1% in the Rural Districts of the County and the overall County average of 14%.

There were 1,093 females for every 1,000 males in the District, in 1931 the proportion was 1,103 females to 1,000 males. 14.76% of our population was aged 65 or over, compared with 11.5% for Rural Districts and 12.2% for the County as a whole.

In the consideration of household arrangements it is shown that 970 households i.e. 13.4% were entirely without a supply of piped water, as compared with 4.7% for the County as a whole and 17.3% for Rural Districts alone. 43% had for their exclusive use piped water, cooking stove, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath, as against 58% for the County and 48% for all Rural Districts. 2,700 households had no water closet and 3,399 had no fixed bath.

The following tables show some details of the District parish by parish and give some impression of how the households in the area are distributed over the available housing.

TABLE I

Parish	Acreage	Population		Persons per acre	Private households	Structurally separate dwellings occupied	Density of occupation	
		1931	1951				Persons per room	% of persons at more than 2 per room
Breamore	3,606	590	568	0.16	167	163	0.72	—
Burley	11,260	1,546	1,596	0.14	484	481	0.56	1.0
Christchurch East	6,754	2,133	3,439	0.51	1,047	1,038	0.77	3.6
Damerham ..	4,680	473	470	0.10	154	152	0.66	—
Ellingham ..	7,271	579	760	0.10	201	199	0.68	1.1
Fordingbridge ..	14,707	3,753	4,224	0.29	1,319	1,306	0.62	0.8
Hale	1,844	404	489	0.27	153	153	0.67	1.7
Harbridge and Ibsley	6,007	504	1,211	0.20	283	283	0.73	1.9
Hurn	4,483	241	437	0.10	129	127	0.91	13.7
Martin	5,213	410	607	0.12	141	137	0.67	2.8
Ringwood ..	7,249	5,052	6,336	0.87	2,004	1,968	0.66	0.7
Rockbourne ..	3,923	375	401	0.10	125	125	0.67	0.7
St. Leonards & St. Ives	6,153	956	1,788	0.29	524	515	0.75	8.1
Sopley	4,778	738	937	0.20	286	286	0.68	1.0
Whitsbury ..	1,823	173	203	0.11	60	60	0.68	4.9
Woodgreen ..	388	290	446	1.15	160	157	0.62	9.6
TOTAL ..	90,139	18,217	23,912	0.27	7,237	7,150	0.67	2.3

TABLE II

	Number of Households occupying the following number of rooms								Total households	Total persons in Households
	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	8 or 9 Rooms	10 or more Rooms	
Total households	200	238	977	2,089	2,221	873	299	234	106	7,237
Total persons	467	503	2,797	6,213	7,381	2,852	1,040	849	463	22,565

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE :

The prevalence of infectious disease throughout the year was unusually low.

Whooping Cough occurred in moderate numbers with one death but, following the previous years heavy outbreak of Measles, there were fewer cases of Measles notified than in any year since notification of Measles was introduced.

The number of cases of Pneumonia was, as usual, over twice the national average, due to the unduly large number of ageing persons residing in the area, but in spite of this the Pneumonia death rate was only one quarter of the national figure.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified but in neither case was the diagnosis fully established, though they remain on the records as presumptive cases. One had somewhat doubtful transient paresis at the onset but both made full and rapid recoveries.

The fourteen cases of Dysentery notified were from five apparently separate incidents and represented three different kinds of infection. One was an imported case infected abroad, the remainder occurred at Holmsley and at Bransgore. Two of these outbreaks were of Flexner Dysentery, separated by an interval of some seven months and with no obvious connecting link, the other two outbreaks were of Sonne Dysentery, with a four month interval and again not apparently connected.

<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>	
		<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Scarlet Fever	7	0.28	0.97
Whooping Cough	53	2.15	2.39
Diphtheria	—	—	0.00
Erysipelas	6	0.24	0.12
Measles	3	0.12	3.32
Pneumonia	35	1.42	0.59
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	1	0.04	0.03
(Non-Paralytic) ..	1	0.04	0.01
Meningococcal infection ..	—	—	0.03
Food Poisoning	24	0.97	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0.08	0.28
Dysentery	14	0.57	0.72

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION :

The number of children immunised, which had fallen off during 1953, showed some recovery. There was a further increase in the number of children who received refresher doses, largely due to the immunisation sessions which I conduct at schools throughout the District twice a year.

322 children were immunised for the first time, of whom 256 were under five and 66 over five. 407 children received refresher

doses. Only 48.8% of children born within the previous twelve months were immunised and, though some of those not treated will be dealt with during this and subsequent years, the percentage is disturbingly low.

The following table gives some details of the state of immunisation in the area in so far as we hold reliable records. Up to 1946 records were held in a form which makes their inclusion impracticable.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1940).

<i>Age at 31.12.54. i.e. Born in year</i>	<i>Under 1 1954</i>	<i>1-4 1953-50</i>	<i>5-9 1949-1945</i>	<i>10-14 1944-1940</i>	<i>Under 15 Total</i>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A. 1950 - 1954	22	909	1344	722	2997
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	483	529	1012

SMALLPOX VACCINATION :

This District occupies an unenviable position in that during 1954 it had the lowest percentage of vaccinated babies in the County. The percentage of babies under 12 months vaccinated throughout the County was 56.9%, in this District it was 32.3%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The clinic facilities for the diagnosis and the home observation and treatment of tuberculous cases throughout the District are unchanged. Cases south of Fordingbridge come under the care of the Chest Physician at Christchurch and those in the northern part of the area under the Chest Physician at Salisbury. There is now no waiting list for admission to Sanatorium in this area.

The number of cases notified showed little change from the previous year.

The total number on the register at 31.12.54 was 205.

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
86	64	38	17

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1947-1954.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1947	12	5	3	1	4	4	—	1

1948	13	5	3	2	3	2	—	—
1949	12	14	2	2	3	4	2	1
1950	17	17	8	2	4	5	1	—
1951	8	8	4	1	2	2	—	1
1952	11	13	3	—	—	—	—	1
1953	9	6	1	2	1	1	—	—
1954	9	5	2	1	4	2	—	—

AFTER CARE IN TUBERCULOSIS :

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee concluded another most successful year of service to the needy tuberculous patients of the area. This voluntary committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners, gave assistance to 33 patients in various ways which would not otherwise have been available to them. Much of the assistance was in the form of fuel and additional nourishment, but not the least valuable form of aid was sympathetic advice and encouragement from local members of the committee to individual patients visited in their homes. This is voluntary work of a very high standard and deserving of every praise. I wish to pay tribute to the devoted members of this committee and in particular to the Chairman and to the energetic honorary secretary Major F. A. L. Lawrence, and the honorary treasurer, Lt. Col. M. E. Morgan. During the year nearly £300 was expended of which all, but the County Council grant of £100, was raised by voluntary effort, principally the sale of N.A.P.T. Christmas Seals.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY :

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Fordingbridge and Holmsley. In each case the response was disappointing and most particularly at Holmsley where special care was taken over publicity and encouragement. Once again it was not possible to arrange a visit of the Unit to Ringwood owing to the lack of a suitable hall to be used in conjunction with the Unit. No visit to Ringwood has been possible since 1952 but the Unit hopes shortly to have a caravan which should make it independent of halls.

FORDINGBRIDGE

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number examined ..	288	366	190	844
Recalled for large film	7	16	—	23
Further action required	—	2	—	2

HOLMSLEY

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number examined ..	44	89	77	210
Recalled for large film	—	1	2	3
Further action required	—	—	—	—

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Constituent laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service are situated at Boscombe and, since 1st July, at Salisbury. Bacteriological specimens of epidemiological interest from private practitioners, or from the Public Health Department, are examined free of charge and the directors, Dr. G. J. G. King at Boscombe and Dr. M. S. Pereira at Salisbury, are available to give their valuable advice and guidance on epidemiological matters.

The following specimens emanating from this District during 1954 were examined at the Boscombe Laboratory.

Nose and throat	..	..	2
Faeces	..	..	113
Venereal disease	..	..	2
Water	..	..	48
Milk	..	..	43
Ice-cream	..	..	37
Other sanitary	..	..	7
			<hr/>
			252
			<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of one village the District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company, whose works are situated in the Borough of Christchurch. The Company draws its raw water from the Avon and treats it by slow sand filtration and chloramination. The resultant water is of satisfactory purity and the supply is constant and adequate.

Breamore remains the only large area not supplied with main water. I have for years been advocating the provision of a main supply in this village owing to the presence of many polluted wells. Arrangements are now going ahead to supply the Marsh area, but the Cross Trees area has not so far been included. A demand exists there and since main water must eventually come to that part it would seem sensible to complete the whole area at the one time. It will certainly be no cheaper to provide the extension at a later date.

During the year 39 samples were taken from sources of supply other than the mains, 23 of these were found to be polluted.

The following list gives the number of premises, in parishes, supplied with main water as recorded by the Water Company, together with a number of converted war-time huts supplied through central meters. It is not guaranteed that all premises are allocated to their correct parish.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Dwellings supplied direct</i>	<i>Approximate population supplied</i>
Martin	92	287

Rockbourne	..	..	..	95			296
Whitsbury	..	..	..	58			181
Breamore	..	..	..	—			—
Hale	..	..	..	127			396
Woodgreen	..	..	..	151			471
Damerham	..	..	..	104			324
Fordingbridge	..	..	..	1710	plus	3 huts	5344
Harbridge and Ibsley	..	..	..	106	„	96 „	630
Ellingham	..	..	..	105	„	15 „	374
St. Leonards and St. Ives	..	..	..	488	„	3 „	1532
Ringwood	..	..	..	2140			6677
Burley	..	..	..	464			1448
Hurn	..	..	..	29	„	89 „	368
Sopley	..	..	..	188	„	65 „	789
Christchurch East	..	..	..	747	„	161 „	2833

SEWAGE DISPOSAL :

No alteration has taken place during the year at the Ringwood Sewage Works. Following the previous dry year, 1954 was an unusually wet one ; in only one month, April, was the rainfall less than 2 inches and almost as much rain fell in the last six months of the year as fell in the whole of 1953. The gales and floods of November will long be remembered. Even in 1953 we had serious difficulties with the system of land irrigation and in 1954 these difficulties were gravely accentuated. Much of the time the absorption area was flooded with effluent and there was a constant danger of contamination of the adjoining watercourses. At times the pumps at Bickerley were unable to cope with the flow, even when both were run together, and it was necessary to run an additional auxiliary pump to supplement their output and prevent overflows from manholes.

In the light of this experience which could readily occur again, 1951 was a much wetter year, it seems imperative that we should proceed with the minimum of delay to install new sewage purification works providing a purified effluent for discharge direct to the river, together with increased pumping capacity on the lines of the scheme prepared by your consultants, but abandoning land irrigation.

The Fordingbridge Sewage Scheme at last came into operation in the middle of the year and by the end of the year approximately 300 properties were connected to it. The abnormal rainfall in November produced a flow at the works of ten times the estimated dry weather flow for a short period but the new installation proved capable of dealing with the conditions. New properties continue to be connected, and at the time of writing some 450 are on the sewer. Collection of night soil is shortly to be discontinued.

MILK AND DAIRIES :

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is efficient and is satisfactorily operated.

The following details of milk production in the District have been kindly supplied by Mr. D. C. Batchelor, Milk Regulations Officer of the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Undesignated</i>	<i>Registered Producers</i>
Martin	9	3	12
Rockbourne	11	1	12
Whitsbury	6	—	6
Breamore	12	6	18
Hale	8	3	11
Woodgreen	3	—	3
Damerham	9	2	11
Fordingbridge	44	12	56
Harbridge and Ibsley	8	11	19
Ellingham	14	4	18
St. Leonards and St. Ives	8	5	13
Ringwood	25	6	31
Burley	6	6	12
Hurn	6	1	7
Sopley	18	12	30
Christchurch East	25	7	32
	<u>212</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>291</u>

The following table shows the milk production situation at the end of each year since 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into force with its associated Regulations

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Registered Producers	302	302	293	285	288	291
Holders of T.T. Licences	88	104	113	135	145	212
Holders of Accredited Licences	48	49	44	46	41	—

The designation "Accredited" was discontinued in October and it will be seen that a remarkable stimulus has been given to producers to achieve the attested grade — an increase of 67 T.T. licences in the year, making 72.8% of the producers in the area holders of T.T. licences.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES :

The Ministry of Food relinquished control of the Ringwood Slaughter House on 29th June, 1954, and its control and operation was taken over by a syndicate of local butchers. It had been hoped that a considerable reduction in killings would take place since, during the Ministry's tenure, it was felt that the establishment was ill suited to bulk killings on the scale then in force. In fact, however, the killings for the second half of the year were not substantially different in numbers from those in the first half, though the distribution as between classes of animal differed considerably. There was of course a heavy demand for home killed meat with the cessation of controls, and it is felt that the situation will tend to sort itself out and normal killings will settle down at a lower level. The position will be kept under review.

4811 animals were slaughtered during the year, the largest total since the war.

One further small private slaughter house was licensed in Fordingbridge. Killings here are very occasional and have been confined to small animals.

RINGWOOD SLAUGHTER HOUSE

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Animals slaughtered under Ministry control — Ministry slaughtering ceased on 29.6.54	339	94	50	1784	199
Animals slaughtered under private enterprise from cessation of rationing until 31.12.54	381	27	355	433	1149
Total killed 1.1.54 - 31.12.54.	720	121	405	2217	1348

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors at the slaughter houses. In the first rush of killings after the lifting of controls the inspectors were called on at all hours and the situation gave rise to some anxiety, but as more normal conditions developed it has been found possible to carry out most of the duties within, or very shortly after, normal working hours. The total amount of meat condemned during the year showed a remarkable drop to just over 4½ tons, a reduction of 53% on the previous

year's total, providing a useful testimony to the improved quality of animal now being submitted for slaughter. Tuberculosis remained the major cause of condemnation, nearly 1 ton. 12 cwt. being condemned from this cause alone.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1954.

	<i>Cattle excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	720	121	405	2217	1348
Number inspected	720	121	405	2217	1348
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	—	8	—	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	203	52	3	113	71
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	28.5	42.9	2.7	5.1	6.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	3	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	44	15	—	—	19
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	6.5	12.4	—	—	1.5

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS :

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following details of substances sampled within this area during the year ended 31st March, 1955 have been kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector, Mr. C. O. Perry.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>
Butter and Other Fats	2
Drugs	2
Meat Products	6
Milk	84
Spirits	5
Other Foods	12

The 84 samples of Milk proved to contain an average of 3.53 % Fat and 8.79 % Non-Fatty Solids.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES :

Again it will be seen from the later part of this report that a considerable amount of your inspectors' time is taken up with inspection of food premises, and consequently with the concomitant health education which is a natural feature of such visits.

Food premises throughout the District are in the main satisfactory.

Ringwood Market continues to receive special attention.

ICE CREAM :

Routine sampling of ice cream has continued but on a smaller scale. The general improvement in the overall standard of ice cream makes frequent routine sampling less necessary and frees the inspectors' time for more pressing duties. This year only one of the samples taken fell into the unsatisfactory grades.

96 purveyors of ice cream are licensed by this Council.

The following table shows the results of the Methylene Blue test in this District since routine sampling commenced in 1947.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Grade 1</i> SATISFACTORY	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i> UNSATISFACTORY	<i>Grade 4</i>
1947	26	30.8 %	23.0 %	30.8 %	15.4 %
1948	53	41.5 %	24.5 %	17.0 %	17.0 %
1949	196	53.1 %	16.3 %	15.8 %	14.8 %
1950	140	79.3 %	10.7 %	7.1 %	2.9 %
1951	116	92.2 %	3.5 %	2.6 %	1.7 %
1952	32	96.9 %	3.1 %	—	—
1953	53	86.8 %	11.3 %	—	1.9 %
1954	37	83.8 %	13.5 %	2.7 %	—

FOOD POISONING.

In July a sharp but shortlived outbreak of food poisoning occurred among the members of a Women's Institute, and some of their home contacts, in the Breamore area. The outbreak followed an outing at which principally contributed home produced foods were consumed. At this time a scattered outbreak of infection with the same organism, salmonella typhi-murium of identical phage type, was occurring in the Salisbury area and was subsequently presumed to have been due to a carrier in a bakery. In spite of exhaustive enquiries it was not found possible to trace the precise source of infection in the Breamore outbreak or even to incriminate any particular item of food, but it seems certain that an infected person, possibly a convalescent carrier from the Salisbury outbreak, among the members of the Institute was the inadvertent cause.

SCHOOLS.

There has been little change in the circumstances of the nineteen schools throughout the area. With the coming into operation of the Fordingbridge Sewerage Scheme Fordingbridge school was supplied with waterborne sanitation, so that there are now four schools throughout the area so supplied. At the remaining fifteen conditions are as primitive as ever. Hand washing facilities are in the main divorced from the sanitary accommodation, and the provision of hot water is exceptional.

Urban schools remain overcrowded, in part owing to the increase in the birth rate at the end of the war, but even more owing to a considerable increase in the population without an equivalent provision of additional school accommodation.

School meals are available at all schools, either cooked in school kitchens on the premises or brought in insulated containers from kitchens at other schools. In two thirds of the schools meals are eaten in classrooms and in a number of the remainder conditions of overcrowding are such that school dining rooms are used as additional class rooms throughout the day. In fact there are only three schools where the children do not eat in the space in which they or others work.

CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council conducts five Child Welfare Centres, each being attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer and by the Health Visitor in whose area the Centre lies. The Centres are administered by voluntary committees of local ladies who maintain the records and manage the sale and distribution of welfare foods and medicaments. I should like to express our continued gratitude for the work of these voluntary committees.

<i>Child Welfare Centre.</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time.</i>
Breamore	Woodgreen Hall	First Thursday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Fordingbridge	Victoria Rooms	First and Third Tuesday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Ringwood	Conway Hall	First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Bransgore	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Hurn	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.

A further centre is conducted at Burley by a local general practitioner, largely for the benefit of his own patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47 :

No case was considered for action under the above section during the year.

“ GIPSY ” CAMPS :

A further reduction in the shack dwellers at the Millersford encampment has taken place and there now remain only five families who are either aged, or resolutely opposed to removal. No fresh families have moved in.

At Thorney Hill Compound the position was unchanged at the end of the year, four families being in residence, though at the time of writing three further families had arrived, one being “ travellers,” and the other two former residents who had returned from Holmsley.

There are two further small camps, one at North Charford—four families, and the other at Hyde—two families.

The vast majority of the former shack dwellers are, as I indicated in last year’s report, now Council tenants in requisitioned huts and must in due course present an acute problem in rehousing.

HOUSING :

The housing situation remains a matter for concern principally owing to the very large number of families in the District who are occupying “ unfit ” houses, either old property, which cannot be brought to anything approaching reasonable modern standards and is in fact fit only for demolition, or converted war-time huts. We still had, at the end of the year, 322 families living in hatted council accommodation—a reduction of 42 on the previous year’s total, but a formidable number to rehouse. We also have a disproportionately large number of people living in caravans; apart from New Forest Rural District, which has nearly twice our population, we had more occupied caravans than any other Rural District in the County at the time of the 1951 census, and there is no reason to believe that this situation has improved.

No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.54 ..	Approx. 585
No. of Council Houses completed in 1954 ..	95
No. of Private Houses completed in 1954 ..	83
<i>Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.54.</i>	
Permanent Houses	728
Prefabs	50
Requisitioned houses (family units)	17
Huts (family units)	322

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS :

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—*

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts.).	39
No. of inspections made for the purpose.	93
No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	26

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*
 No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 7

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*
Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

Proceedings under the Public Health Act :—

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 1

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 1

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted 4

HURN AIRPORT :

The Airport continues to be used as a diversion Airport to accommodate aircraft which are unable to use their normal port of arrival principally owing to fog. During 1954 such occasions were few, and fewer aircraft were diverted to Hurn than in any previous year.

Emergency port health duties and medical inspection of aliens were again carried out by Dr. W. D. Higson, Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, Dr. D. McIntyre and myself.

The Airport is being used to increasing extent for commercial purposes owing to the development of the aircraft industry in the area. In addition there has been an increase in internal air services both scheduled, principally to the Channel Islands, and charter.

During 1954 716 aircraft arrived at Hurn and there were 719 departures. This figure does not include training and testing flights.

The following table shows the arrivals of diverted aircraft requiring the presence of a medical officer.

ARRIVALS, 1954.

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of aircraft</i>	<i>No. of crew</i>	<i>No. of British Passengers</i>	<i>No. of Alien Passengers</i>
January	1	9	34	—
February	3	18	96	1
March	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—
August	1	7	23	5
September	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	34	153	6

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT :

The following figures showing the state of employment and unemployment in the area served by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Employment Exchanges have been kindly supplied by Mr. E. J. Birden, the Manager of the Ringwood Employment Exchange. The area includes a small part of Dorset close to the Hampshire boundary but does not include the parishes of Hurn, Sopley and Christchurch East which are served by the Christchurch Employment Exchange.

1. *Unemployment.* The number of persons over 18 years of age, registered at Ringwood Employment Exchange and Fordingbridge Sub-Office during 1954 were as follows :—

<i>Month</i>		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	..	80	22	102
February	..	103	32	135
March	..	92	25	117
April	..	72	21	93
May	..	54	19	73
June	..	45	16	61
July	..	32	13	45
August	..	40	14	54
September	..	38	16	54
October	..	42	19	61
November	..	54	23	77
December	..	56	24	80

2. *Approximate percentage of male and female workers over 18 years of age who were registered as unemployed at the following months during 1954.*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
January	2.4%	1.5%	) Based on 1953 insured population
March	2.7%	1.7%	
June	1.3%	1%	) Based on 1954 insured population
September	1.1%	1%	
December	1.6%	1.5%	

Note 1. The above percentages take into account a deduction made from the total of insured employees to account for persons under 18 years of age in order to balance the unemployment figures which are for adults.

Note 2. A count of the insured population is made at the end of May each year, therefore percentages given for January and March are based on 1953 insured employee figures and June, September and December are based on 1954 figures.

3. *Insured Population (Employees).*

This statement has been prepared solely for the purpose of providing an approximate indication of the industrial structure of the area. The figures are not sufficiently precise to enable com-

parisons to be made in detail between consecutive years and no significance should be attached to relatively small changes.

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Males aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Females aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Total Males & Females 15 and over</i>
BASIC INDUSTRIES			
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry ..	1077	140	1217
Sand and gravel quarrying	98	1	99
Gas supply	14	1	15
Transport and communications	204	37	241
TOTAL BASIC INDUSTRIES	1393	179	1572

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Males aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Females aged 15 and over</i>	<i>Total Males and Females 15 and over</i>
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES			
Non-metalliferous mining products ..	54	2	56
Manufacture of paint	31	5	36
Engineering (agricultural & general) ..	507	54	561
Manufacture & repair of vehicles	191	20	211
Food industries	57	26	83
Wood industries (sawmilling, conversion, etc.).	90	2	92
Other industries	21	22	43
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	951	131	1082

SERVICES			
Building, civil engineering and electrical contracting	428	9	437
Distributive trades	321	321	642
Banking, insurance and finance	66	24	90
National and local government	187	12	199
Professional services	119	290	409
Hotel and catering trades	21	129	150
Domestic service (resident and non- resident)	168	544	712
Other miscellaneous services	73	89	162
TOTAL SERVICES	1383	1418	2801
GRAND TOTAL	3727	1728	5455

GENERAL REMARKS:

The general health of the area has been satisfactory.

The incidence of infectious disease was remarkably low.

The estimated population has, for the first time since 1945, shown a slight decrease — attributed by the Registrar General to a

fall in the number of service personnel in the area.

A further substantial fall in the Birth Rate has occurred, the figure being the lowest recorded since 1938.

The Infantile Mortality Rate showed a sharp drop from last year's high figure and is the second lowest ever recorded.

The Death Rate, which last year was artificially inflated by an administrative change on the part of the Registrar General, has this year returned to a more normal figure. As might be expected the crude death rate is higher than the national figure owing to the large number of aged and retired persons living in the area. When allowance is made for the constitution of the population by the application of the comparability factor it will be seen that the Death Rate compares favourably with the national figure.

The housing situation remains a matter for concern.

In conclusion, I would again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, Mr. Clement Brown and Mr. Pilbrow for their advice and guidance, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1955.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1954 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	124	65	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	151	90	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2 ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. S.(3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	3	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	3	4	—	4	—

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing (Making, etc.) apparel	57					

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

*Public Offices,
Ringwood.*

June, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor dealing with work carried out by my Department during the year 1954.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing Acts	437
Dangerous Buildings	8
Moveable Dwellings	121
Gipsy Camps	28
Nuisances and Complaints	239
Water Supplies	37
Meat and Other Foods	619
Knacker's Yard	12
Food and Drugs Act	843
Licensed Premises	31
Ice Cream	37
Milk and Dairies	77
Watercress Beds	8
Shops Act	30
Factories Act	90
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	34
Food Poisoning	66
Vermin Infested Premises	12
Rodent Control	3728
Public Cleansing	107
Ringwood Sewerage	338
Fordingbridge Sewerage	379
Other Services administered by the Council	386
Petroleum and Carbide	96
Building Byelaws	2022
Town and Country Planning	408
Estates Maintenance	3216
Control of Civil Building	4
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts	41
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	6
National Assistance Act	3
Unclassifiable Inspections	57
Total visits and inspections	13520

HOUSING

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

Routine inspections of unfit houses were not carried out, inspections only being made upon receipt of complaints. 26 informal notices were served and 1 statutory notice. 6 inspections were made in connection with overcrowding. 8 unfit houses were demolished during the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 came into operation on the 30th August and facilitates the exercise of the Council's statutory responsibilities for the clearance and replacement of slum houses, the enforcement of essential repairs, and the encouragement of improvements and conversions. It also enables landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent.

The Council is required to submit for the Minister's approval a programme for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition, the period which the Council think necessary for securing their demolition and the number to be demolished within the first 5 years.

The Act produces a new standard of fitness which applies both to the repair of houses and to action against slum houses. Section 9 (i) reads as follows:—

“ In determining for any of the purposes of the principal Act whether a house is unfit for human habitation, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the following matters — that is to say:—

- (a) repairs;
- (b) stability
- (c) freedom from damp;
- (d) natural lighting;
- (e) ventilation;
- (f) water supply;
- (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences; and
- (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water;

and the house shall be deemed to be unfit as aforesaid if and only if it is so far defective in one or more of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition ”

The Rural Housing Survey completed in 1950 revealed that there were 514 houses in the district which were unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense; the occupied huts fall into the same category giving a present day estimated total of 800. In addition over 2,000 houses were found to be in need of repair, structural alteration or improvement. It will be appreciated that the housing problem in this district is likely to remain a major one for many years.

A sub-committee of the Housing Committee has been set up for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the Council's slum clearance programme.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS.

The 1954 Act includes some important amendments to accelerate and simplify procedure concerning grants for improvement and conversion with the object of encouraging more owners to apply for grants. The period of 30 years for which a dwelling was required to provide satisfactory accommodation in order to qualify for grant has been reduced to a minimum of 15 years. The restriction on the total amount to be spent on a dwelling — originally £600 then later £800 — has been completely removed and a limit of £400 fixed for the maximum amount of grant (the authority may, with the concurrence of the Minister increase this amount if satisfied in the case of any particular application that in all the circumstances of the case there is a good reason for the payment of a higher amount); the minimum amount to be spent on a dwelling has been reduced from £150 to £100.

The standard of fitness specified for a dwelling in respect of which an improvement grant is to be made has been modified and is as follows :—

The dwelling must, after improvement or conversion —

- (i) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp;
- (ii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;
- (iii) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on inside the dwelling;
- (iv) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes ;
- (v) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;
- (vi) have a fixed bath (or shower) preferably in a separate room;
- (vii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;
- (viii) have a proper drainage system;
- (ix) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available) ;
- (x) be provided with adequate facilities for heating;
- (xi) have satisfactory facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food;
- (xii) have proper provision for the storage of fuel (where required);

The Council have agreed to accept ceiling heights of 6'6" so as not to exclude the many low ceiling cottages in the district.

It is hoped that the scheme will now encourage owners to modernise and make better use of existing houses by improvements and conversions and provide the amenities and conveniences which have come to be regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life.

During the year 64 preliminary enquiries were received. 29 applications were approved in respect of 36 properties, 34 of these were improvements of existing dwellings and 2 were conversions of buildings to provide dwelling accommodation. The value of the grants made was £8,239. A total of 344 inspections were made.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

It was necessary to invoke statutory action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of a blacksmith's shop rendered dangerous as a result of structural defects.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No. of licensed moveable dwelling sites on register	80
No. of licensed moveable dwellings (other than sites) on register	3
No. of inspections made	121
Applications for licences received during the year	20

GIPSY CAMPS

There are a number of small gipsy encampments in the district including one on Forestry Commission land.

28 inspections were made during the year.

Further families from Millersford Bottom were re-housed on a hutted camp site and the number of families at Millersford reduced to 5 with a total population of 21. In 1953 there were 11 families on the site with a total population of 58. The problem of dealing with these remaining families is a difficult one as generally they have no desire to leave and some would actively resist efforts made for effecting their removal.

COMPLAINTS.

86 complaints were received during the year involving a total of 239 visits and inspections - details are as follows :-

<i>Nature of Nuisance</i>	<i>Complaints received</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>
Insanitary conditions	11	30
Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies	5	15
Overcrowding	1	6
Dust, effluvia or smoke	—	—
Flea or fly infestations	4	12
Offensive smells	11	16
Offensive accumulations	8	13
Cesspools and drains	8	84
Milk and Dairies	2	4
Rats and Mice	24	28
Animals	1	15
Miscellaneous	11	16
	86	239

Upon being satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, a local authority must serve a notice in accordance with Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936 requiring the abatement of the nuisance. The Act does not require the service of an informal notice but it is

the general practice for such a notice to be issued; the majority of nuisances are remedied as a result of informal action. One statutory notice (Abatement) was served under Section 93 and two statutory notices under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of visits and inspections made (excluding visits following complaints)	.. .. .	37
Number of samples collected	.. .. .	39
Number of samples unsatisfactory	.. .. .	23
Houses connected to main supply as result of Statutory Notices	.. .. .	1

Eleven of the unsatisfactory samples were from a private estate supply; after attention to the gathering ground, filter bed and reservoir subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Ministry of Food ceased to use the Ringwood Slaughter House on the 30th June; it has since been operated by an association of local butchers. There is one other licensed slaughter house in the district.

MINISTRY OF FOOD FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION OF PIGS.

Upon the cessation of rationing on the 1st July price guarantees for fatstock became operative. The Ringwood Slaughter House was designated a Deadweight Certification Centre and the Council agreed to co-operate with the Ministry by permitting their meat inspectors to act as Certifying Officers.

During the six months operation of this scheme 167 certificates were issued in respect of 412 pigs.

ANIMAL CARCASES.

Routine inspections of all animals slaughtered were continued throughout the year, involving the detailed examination of all carcases and offal. 520 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcases inspected at the Slaughter House was 4811 made up as follows :—

Cattle excluding cows	.. .. .	720
Cows	.. .. .	121
Calves	.. .. .	405
Sheep and lambs	.. .. .	2217
Pigs	.. .. .	1348

As a result of these examinations 10,254 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption; diseases and weights are :—

<i>Disease or condition</i>					<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3564
Distomatosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1989
Bruised .. .. .	..	..	..	..	972
Abscess .. .. .	..	..	..	..	847
Emaciation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	563
Lymph Leukaemia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	426
C. Bovis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	298
Septic Omphalophlebitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	166
Actinomycosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	159
Moribund .. .. .	..	..	..	..	140
Anasarca .. .. .	..	..	..	..	139
Telangiectasis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	99
Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	95
Cirrhosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	92
Septicaemia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	87
Arthritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	87
Hydatid Cyst .. .. .	..	..	..	..	79
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	77
Dropsy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	75
Swine Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	43
Bone Taint .. .. .	..	..	..	..	42
Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	29
Actinobacillosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	27
Tumour .. .. .	..	..	..	..	36
Johnes Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	25
Burned .. .. .	..	..	..	..	24
Fracture .. .. .	..	..	..	..	16
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	14
Peritonitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	11
Pericarditis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	10
Pleurisy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8
Ascaris Lumbricoides .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8
Fatty degeneration .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4
Endocarditis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3

10254

The following summary shows the total number of carcasses inspected and amounts of meat condemned during the previous 7 years.

	<i>No. of carcasses</i>			<i>condemned meat (lbs).</i>	
1953	4385	..	21,452
1952	4166	..	25,458
1951	3232	..	35,911
1950	3714	..	50,307
1949	3820	..	33,227
1948	2156	..	19,218
1947	2917	..	20,992

OTHER FOODS.

84 visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows :—

Plaice	7 lbs.
Cod fillets	2 stone
Various fish	28 tins
Various vegetables	33 tins
Dried peas	52 lbs.
Various fruit	133 tins
Various meat	108 tins
Top and rump	80½ lbs.
New Zealand Lamb	46 lbs.
Buttock of beef	261 lbs.
Hind quarter	23½ lbs.
Beef	9 lbs.
Pork	13 lbs.
Pig heads	66½ lbs.
Ox Kidney	3 lbs.
Forequarter of beef	24½ lbs.
Soup	8 tins
Semolina	4 pkts.
Ginger	38 lbs.
Tapioca substitute	14 lbs.
Ice Cream Wafer	1 Tin

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. 15 licences were issued to slaughtermen. Two slaughter house licences were renewed and one knacker's yard licence.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

843 inspections were made in connection with food premises as follows :—

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Food shops	158	230
Bakehouses	21	42
Restaurant kitchens	41	90
Ice Cream premises	96	21
Preserved Food Premises	19	52
Market stalls	32	403
Miscellaneous		5

LICENSED PREMISES.

31 inspections of licensed premises were made during the year, particular regard being paid to sanitary accommodation and rooms used for the preparation of food.

ICE CREAM

37 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and methylene blue test involving 37 visits. The samples were graded by the Bacteriologist as follows:—

Grade 1..	..	..	..	31
Grade 2	..	..	..	5
Grade 3	..	..	..	1
Grade 4	..	..	..	—
				37

Under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, no bacteriological standards are officially laid down for Ice Cream as there is no known test sufficiently reliable for use as a statutory test of its contamination with non-pathogenic organisms. Bacteriological tests are employed as an indication of possible faulty methods although no test has yet been devised for the safety of Ice Cream. Plate count, presence or absence of presumptive *B.coli* and standardised methylene blue reduction tests are the methods most used by bacteriologists.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951 prescribes that ice cream shall contain not less than 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat. This Order is enforced by Food and Drugs authorities.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of Registered Distributors	..	14
New registrations made during the year		2
Inspections made	.. ..	77
Informal Notices served	.. ..	—
Samples of milk collected	.. ..	39

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

8 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” were issued during the year.

2 supplementary licences were issued in respect of “Tuberculin” and “Pasteurised” milk.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-1953.

The Council exercise the functions of the County Council respecting the issue of licences in respect of pasteurising and sterilising establishments.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

6 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” were issued during the year.

SHOPS ACT.

Number on register	..	..	..	275
Inspections made	..	..	..	30

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

6 Certificates of Exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued under Section 38.

One Statutory Notice was served under Section 38 requiring the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

FACTORIES ACT.

This Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not using mechanical power.

Number on Register	..	..	..	151
Inspections made	..	..	..	90

One Statutory Notice was served under Section 7 of the Factories Act requiring the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences.

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS.

Two dealers are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made	..	..	..	34
Premises disinfected	..	..	..	2
Library books destroyed	..	..	..	—
Inspections made in connection with food poisoning	..	..	..	66

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One flea infested dwelling was disinfested by the Council during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

This Council is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Regulations made thereunder and is required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that the district is free from rats and mice.

A rodent operative was appointed and commenced duties on the 1st March.

In addition to investigating individual complaints a routine survey of the district was commenced.

Lands and buildings throughout the district are inspected and occupiers of infested property are requested to take steps to exterminate rodents. Advice is given on method of control and occupiers of domestic buildings are offered ready mixed bait, consisting of Warfarin and medium grade oatmeal, free of charge. In the case of agricultural lands and buildings and business premises, a charge of 2s. per lb. is made.

Infested premises are re-visited and in the majority of cases it is found that infestation has been cleared. Once the simple and effective method of Warfarin control has been proved, occupiers will, in the event of re-infestation occurring, readily co-operate by reporting and requesting further supplies of poison.

This scheme ensures that the Council's statutory duties of inspection and enforcement are adequately discharged and provides a satisfactory measure of control on properties.

The following summary shews the work carried out by the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1955. A total of 3,728 visits and inspections were made.

	<i>Type of Property</i>		
	Dwelling houses	Business premises	Agri- cultural
No. of properties in district	7546	674	463
No. of properties inspected as a result of			
(a) Notification	133	27	9
(b) Survey under the Act	2639	263	420
No. of inspections made by Rodent Operative - including reinspections	2915	376	437
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by			
(a) Rats Major	—	—	—
Minor	872	100	325
(b) Mice Major	—	—	—
Minor	25	6	54

Meetings of the Workable Area Committee are held periodically for the discussion of rodent control problems and methods of co-operation between neighbouring authorities. The area covered by the Committee consists of the districts of Bournemouth County Borough, Christchurch Borough, Lymington Borough, New Forest Rural District Council and Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises in the district licensed under the provisions of this Act for the sale of pets.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL

<i>Service.</i>	<i>Visits made.</i>
Refuse collection and disposal	107
Ringwood Sewerage	338
Fordingbridge Sewerage	379
Public Conveniences	201
Cattle Pound	22
Car Parks	42
Ditching	42
Street Name Plates	13
Miscellaneous	66
	<hr/>
	1210

SEWERAGE.

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE

Land irrigation at the Sewage Disposal Works continues to be difficult; the Council is aware that this problem will only be solved by the construction of percolating filter beds permitting the discharge of a purified effluent into the river.

The present estimated dry weather flow is 165,000 gallons per day.

Floods and gales in November and December further aggravated the position; pumps were working without a break from 29th November to 26th December and an auxiliary 6,000 g.p.m. diesel pump was brought into use to prevent sewer manholes overflowing. The land at the disposal works was flooded and the pumps added a further 300,000 gallons per day.

Several failures in the main electricity supply occurred during the year.

A petition was received from residents in the area of the disposal works complaining of nuisance from smells and flies.

During the year 94 premises were connected to the sewers including 86 Council houses; the total number of premises connected to the sewers at the end of the year was 1328 including 320 Council houses.

FORDINGBRIDGE SEWERAGE.

This scheme came into operation at the end of May. At the 31st December there were 300 premises connected including 105 Council houses; the dry weather flow was 35,000 gallons per 24 hours.

The heavy rains referred to created serious problems at the new disposal works. Leaks were revealed in the tubbings and sludge drying beds and infiltration occurred in the sewers. The Lea Recorder shewed daily flows greatly in excess of normal and infiltration reached its peak on the 11th December when a 24 hour flow of 398,000 gallons was recorded.

The effluent discharges into the River Avon and regular and frequent samples are collected for chemical analysis. These shew that a highly satisfactory effluent is being produced.

IBSLEY SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been efficiently maintained; the effluent discharges into the River Avon and is regularly analysed. It has at all times exceeded the standard of purity laid down by the Royal Commission.

Some electrical breakdowns occurred resulting in the pumps being temporarily out of use.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES) ACT, 1937.

During the year two applications were received for consent to connect Trade Premises to the sewers in Ringwood. One of these related to a daily discharge of 8,000 gallons of effluent from a proposed Chromium Plating Plant. Having regard to the possible injurious nature of such an effluent approval was given subject to stringent conditions regarding the construction of the pre-treatment plant, installation of flow recorders, chromate and sulphate content of effluent and a proviso forbidding the discharge of copper, cyanide or other toxic constituents other than chromates.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTIONS.

The Southern Counties Cleansing Services have continued to carry out, on behalf of the Council, bi-weekly collections in the lighting area of Fordingbridge covering some 380 premises. From the commencement of operation of the Sewerage Scheme the number of premises requiring these collections has slowly decreased to 195 at the end of the year. Collections will cease in the spring of 1955 when it is hoped many more property owners will have connected their premises to the new sewers.

The nightsoil is conveyed to the Ringwood Sewage Disposal Works where it is composted and sold.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

The Council gave careful consideration to the operation of a cesspool emptying service and a sub-committee was formed for this purpose. Comparative figures were obtained from other local authorities operating this service and it was ascertained that the net cost falling on the rates varied from £65 to £16,000 per annum dependant upon the number of services to householders and the charges made. After considering detailed estimated costs of providing and maintaining a service for exhausting cesspools the Council decided to take no further action.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

Schemes for providing monthly collections of all refuse (including ashes) in the non-lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and in the remaining fourteen parishes have been considered by the Public Health Committee but were not proceeded with in view of the additional cost of such extensions.

The Council's four vehicles covered a total mileage of 28,211 during the year compared with 26,893 for the preceding year and 16,143 for 1952.

The Council decided to replace the oldest freighter—an S. and D. some 15 years old—by a new Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighter. The special design of this vehicle provides a carrying capacity of 16 to 18 cubic yards as against the normal 8-10 cu.yards capacity and this will materially assist in dealing with the increase in the amount of refuse. The new freighter will be delivered in the summer of 1955.

Much nuisance and inconvenience has been occasioned at the Refuse Dumps due to trespassers removing covering material to sort over refuse after the dump attendants have left. On one evening four separate parties were caught on the Somerley Dump and warned that any future trespassing would render them liable to prosecution.

Section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936 provides that it shall not be lawful for any person, other than a person employed by the Local Authority, to sort over or disturb the material deposited in any place provided by the authority for the deposit of refuse and the Council authorised me to institute proceedings against persons sorting or disturbing materials deposited at the Council's Refuse Dumps.

The following summary shows the estimated amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past six years.:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ashley Dump</i>	<i>Verwood Road Dump</i>	<i>Sandleheath Dump</i>	<i>Total</i>
1954		9697 cu. yds.	4127 cu. yds.	13,824 cu. yds.
1953		8946 „ „	3819 „ „	12,765 „ „
1952	6307 cu. yds.	3900 „ „	3127 „ „	9,824 „ „
1951	7413 „ „		3272 „ „	10,685 „ „
1950	6008 „ „		2857 „ „	8,865 „ „
1949	4625 „ „		2282 „ „	6,907 „ „

It will be observed that the amount of refuse collected has doubled during the last six years.

The following Schedule showing collection days is produced for the information of Councillors :—

WEEKLY SERVICE

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.

Addison Square, Bickerley, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island, Fridays Cross, Hightown Road from Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsbury Lane, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Middle Lane, Mount Pleasant, New Street, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, School Lane, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane.	} Every Monday
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Beechcroft Lane, Broadshard Lane, Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie Estate, Gipsy Lane, Gravel Lane, Highfield Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hiltom Road, Hurst Corner, Hurst Road, Manor Road, Meadow Road, Merryweather Estate, Middleton Road, Morant Road, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Salisbury Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane, Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road	} Every Tuesday
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Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge.

Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road.	} Every Wednesday
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MONTHLY SERVICE.

<i>The whole of the parishes of</i>	<i>in every month</i>
Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury	Second Thursday
Woodgreen and Hale	Second Thursday
St. Leonards and St. Ives	First Thursday
Ellingham (including the areas of Blashford, Rockford, Highwood, Linwood, Linford and Shobley)	Third Thursday
Harbridge and Ibsley (including the areas of South Gorley, Furzehill, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, Harbridge Green, Bleak Hill and Turner)	Third Thursday
Ringwood (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of North Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Crow Hill, Moortown, Kingston, Sandford and Bisterne	Fourth Thursday

Damerham and Breamore	First Friday
Fordingbridge (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath, Bickton, North Gorley, Ogdens, Hungerford, Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Blissford and Godshill)	Second Friday
Sopley (including the area of Avon, Ripley and Shirley)	First Friday
Hurn (including the areas of Parley Green and East Parley)	First Friday
Christchurch East (including the areas of Winkton, Burton, Bransgore, Neacroft, Thorneyhill and Hinton)	Third Friday
Burley (including the area of Burley Street)	Fourth Friday

STREET CLEANSING.

The cleansing of streets in the town areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge has been satisfactorily maintained. Additional cleansing of the Market Place and High Street, Ringwood is necessary following the weekly Wednesday market and Messrs. Woolley & Wallis contribute towards the cost of this.

COUNCIL DEPOT.

Plans are under consideration for improving this depot and providing proper building for the garaging of vehicles. The existing buildings are thoroughly dilapidated and defective; there is no electricity and no facilities for maintenance of vehicles.

SALVAGE.

The salvage scheme in this district has been successfully maintained although some rural authorities have discontinued similar schemes. The total salvage sales of a comparable rural authority in this County amounted to £40 for 1953 whereas this Council's sales were £572 for the same period.

Salvage is collected at the same time as household refuse and no additional labour is employed; the success of this scheme depends to a large extent upon the enthusiasm and co-operation of the workmen.

The Council agreed to operate a scheme of bonus payments based on salvage sales for a trial period of 12 months commencing on the 1st January, 1955 whereby the workmen will share 5 per cent of gross annual salvage sales up to £600 with 10 per cent on sales in excess of that figure; this will probably amount to between £2 and £3 per man for the year and will, it is hoped, prove an incentive to the men to reclaim the maximum amount of salvage

Salvage sales for the year amounted to £669 7s. 0d.—details are shown in the following summary :—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste paper ..	102	10	3	12		518	12	6½
Textiles ..	2	15	—	—		67	18	0
Ferrous metals	3	19	2	—		39	18	9½
Non ferrous metals		9	—	10		37	5	5
Batteries ..		3			2	5	10	0
Jam Jars ..					36		2	3
	109	17	1	22	38	669	7	0
Salvage sales for the previous years are shewn below;								

	£
1941	414
1942	1208
1943	1089
1944	908
1945	574
1946	495
1947	342
1948	949
1949	740
1950	608
1951	1674
1952	937
1953	572

Revenue from salvage showed an increase of nearly £100 on the previous year and it is anticipated that the prices obtainable from merchants will continue to improve.

The following table illustrates the variations in waste paper prices during the last four years:—

<i>Prices per ton paid by merchants.</i>							
<i>Item of salvage</i>	<i>December 1951</i>	<i>December 1952</i>	<i>December 1953</i>	<i>December 1954</i>			
Baled waste paper	£16. 0.	£5. 10.	£4. 10.	£6. 0.			
Unbaled waste paper	£13. 0.	£3. 0.	£1. 10.	£3. 10.			
Baled books and Magazines	£20. 15.	£6. 0.	£5. 10.	—			
Unbaled books and magazines	£16. 15.	£6. 0.	£3. 10.	£6. 0.			
Baled newspaper	£22. 15.	£6. 10.	£5. 10.	—			
Unbaled newspaper	£18. 5.	£6. 10.	£3. 10.	£6. 0.			
Meal bags	£16. 0.	£5. 10.	£5. 0.	£5. 0.			
Office waste	£15. 0.	£8. 0.	£5. 0.	£7. 0.			

CAR PARKS.

RINGWOOD.

The surfaced area of the present car park provides space for some 103 cars—this will be increased to 160 cars when the remaining grassland is surfaced.

FORDINGBRIDGE.

The extension to this car park was completed during the year increasing the accommodation from 30 cars to between 70 and 80 cars.

CATTLE POUND.

The Ringwood Cattle Pound had little use during the year. Although numbers of ponies and cattle roam the highways and are seen frequently grazing on the verges of the trunk roads in the immediate vicinity of the Pound, only 53 were impounded.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Cleanliness of the conveniences at Ringwood has been maintained as satisfactorily as possible; defacing of interior walls continues — the “writing on the wall” habit persists.

The Council contributes towards the cost of maintaining conveniences for use by the public at The Lamb Inn, Ringwood: The Greyhound Hotel and the New Inn, Fordingbridge.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Number of premises on register	..	93
Inspections made	.. ..	96

The Council is responsible for seeing that Petroleum Spirit, Mixtures etc., are stored in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc) Regulations, 1929 and the Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.

Cellulose solutions, Dope and Thinners are “Inflammable liquids” under the Cellulose Solutions Regulations, 1934 and may also be a “mixture of petroleum” if the solution has a flash point of 73 deg. F. or under. Premises where these solutions are stored must also comply with Section 34 (13)(d) of the Factories Act, 1937 relating to means of escape in case of fire.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

	<i>Byelaws in force</i> 1.1.54 - 30.6.54	<i>No Byelaws</i> 1.7.54 - 31.12.54
PLANS		
Number of plans received	246	292
Number of plans approved	194	
Number of plans rejected	21	
Number of plans no objection	31	

INSPECTIONS

Foundations ..	392
Damp proof courses	361
Water Tests applied to drains	558
Completed works ..	360
Sewer connections ..	179
Miscellaneous inspections	172

CONTRAVENTIONS

Contraventions of Building	
Byelaws	47
Number of informal notices served	39

NEW MODEL BUILDING BYELAWS.

Following the protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding this Council's wish to adopt Byelaws other than the Ministry Model, the old Building Byelaws lapsed on the 1st July and the Council was without Byelaws until the 1st January, 1955 when the new Model Byelaws came into operation. During this difficult period your officers had no enforcement powers but it is gratifying to record that builders and architects in general did not take advantage of this and co-operated by submitting plans and requesting normal inspection of works and examination and testing of new drainage systems. This was of great importance as during this period there occurred a large amount of drainage works at Fordingbridge in connection with the new sewerage scheme.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

The department deals with development applications and maintains the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps. A great deal of time is occupied in interviewing callers and advising on planning matters generally and inspections in the district are made on behalf of the Planning Authority.

During the year 408 visits and inspections were made.

ESTATE MAINTENANCE.

At the 31st December, 1954 the Council had a total of 1113 occupied dwellings made up as shewn below :—

Permanent Houses	724
Prefabricated houses	50
Requisitioned houses (family units)	17
Converted Huts (family units) ..	322

The maintenance of these scattered estates is a formidable task and a total of 3216 visits were made during the year as follows:-

Permanent houses	2023
Prefabricated bungalows	126
Requisitioned houses	46
Converted huts	951
Other Council Property	70

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows :—

Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish)	49
Ibsley (Harbridge and Ibsley Parish)	96
Ibsley (Ellingham Parish)	15
Hurn (Hurn Parish)	89
Hurn (Sopley Parish)	65
Godshill (Fordingbridge Parish) ..	3
Ashley (St. Leonards & St. Ives Parish)	5

The 322 family units are housed in 238 huts of seven different types of construction i.e. Thorne, Laing, Maycrete, Handcraft, Nissen, Timber and Brick (4½in.)

The condition of the fabric of many of the huts indicates that the useful life of these has ended and upon the rehousing of the occupants such huts are demolished. During the year 39 huts were taken out of use for housing purposes and this policy continues.

Drainage systems on those estates where main sewerage is not available continue to present serious problems. With the exception of Westbury Close, Bransgore, effluent disposal on such estates is by means of land irrigation and soakaways, and after varying periods these systems cease to function owing to lack of absorption of subsoils.

This district is on the Tertiary strata, mostly soft sand and clays with some plateau and valley gravel and includes the Reading Beds, London Clay, Bagshott Beds, Bracklesham Beds and Barton Beds thus presenting a wide and complex variety of subsoil with a low permeability factor generally.

The Council has agreed that where effluents from disposal plants cannot discharge into a river or stream, individual drainage systems are desirable. Apart from the permeability of subsoils being retained for considerably longer periods where dosing is small and well distributed it is considered that tenants will co-operate to a much greater extent in keeping a system free from nuisance if it is their own drainage only.

The Ministry does not support this and it would appear that frequent cesspool exhausting will have to be resorted to.

With the advent of the sewerage at Fordingbridge a scheme was adopted for bringing up to modern standards the 40 pre-war houses there; this provides for the installation of baths, water closets, hot water supplies and improvements in electricity supplies.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The year saw the end of the Control of Civil Building. "Free allowances" for properties were increased from £500 to £1,000 as from the 1st January and as the issue of Small Dwelling Licences had become mainly automatic the Ministry of Works relieved authorities of this on the 1st April after which date the Ministry issued licences for houses up to 1500 feet super.

Defence Regulation 56A was revoked early in November when all building and civil engineering work was once again freed from licences and authorisations.

The following tables shew the number of licences issued during the year and the progress of the erection of small dwellings.

BUILDING LICENCES.

Number of repair licences issued ..	4
Total value of repair licences issued	£11,300
Number of inspections and visits made	4

SMALL DWELLING LICENCES

Number of small dwelling licences issued by the Council	14
Number of dwellings completed ..	83
Total number of dwellings for which licences have been issued by the Council to 1.4.54	384
Number of dwellings completed to 10.11.54	324

CIVIL DEFENCE.

I am responsible for carrying out the duties of the Council in connection with the following :—

1. Rescue Section
2. Civil Defence (Demolition and Repair Services) Regulations, 1950
3. Civil Defence (Sewage) Regulations, 1949.

STAFF

Mr. F. J. Hinton commenced duties in the department on the 1st December, 1954 as a technical assistant for Building Byelaw work.

CONCLUSION.

I am indebted to Miss Hilary Christy of 44, Christchurch Road, Ringwood for records of rainfall which she has supplied for many years.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for their confidence and support, to Dr. McNab and the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.